

10/590413

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 AUG 2005 PATENT 450106-05459

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Toshiharu TSUCHIYA et al.  
International Application No.: PCT/JP2005/001560  
International Filing Date: January 27, 2005  
For: PICTURE INFORMATION ENCODING APPARATUS  
AND PICTURE INFORMATION ENCODING METHOD

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New York, NY 10151

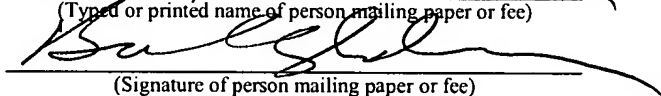
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Sir:

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119, this application is entitled to a claim of priority to  
Application No. 2004-050295 filed in Japan on February 25, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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